

Dr. Kurt BILLMAIER

Lohmar/Sieg County
House "Waldeck"

NOT SUITABLE FOR MICROFILM

2 October 1963

Personal History

Born at Aussig (Sudetenland) on 21 Mar 1921, married.

Education

Private Elementary School at Aussig, Realgymnasium at Aussig, final high school examination in 1939, Technical College Berlin, chemist (grad), main examination at the Technical College Berlin in Feb 1945, dissertation for doctor's degree in Natural Science (Dr. rer. nat.) at the Technical University of Berlin on 13 May 1952

Professional Career

1961 - DIDIER Werke AG Wiesbaden, detached for developing acids at Niederdollendorf as a plastics expert; from 1 Jan 1963 on, representative for South America at the Essen branch firm. Manager for the Consortio Colombia, consisting of the firms

1. BROWN, BOVERI & Cie AG, Mannheim
2. DIDIER Werke AG, Essen
3. HOCHTIEF AG, Essen
4. KLOECKNER HUMBOLDT DEUTZ AG Koeln
5. PHOENIX RHEINROHR International GmbH, Duesseldorf
6. SIEMAG Dahlbruch-Westfalen

This syndicate holds a great number of shares of the
Corporation Financiera Colombiana
de Desarrollo Industrial
Bogota D.E.

in Colombia. At present, the capital of the CFK in Bogota totals Col \$ 120,000 000.--, US \$ 12,000,000.--

Since 15 Jan 1963, I frequently traveled to Colombia in this capacity and for reasons of comfort, I usually traveled via the USA.

- 1958 - 1961 SCHEMING AG Berlin, Advisor of the Chemical Engineering Board
- 1956 - 1958 AUER Werke AG, Berlin, chief chemist
- 1955 - 1956 Josef MEISSNER, Cologne, chemist, setting up a chemistry plant in Spain
- 1952 - 1955 KREBS & Co. Berlin-Frohnau, chemist, during this period, from Aug 1953 to Apr 1955 in Roumania, supervising the installation and operation of a DBT-factory

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1945 - 1951 operated on my own a chemical-technical laboratory at Braunschweig. Developed a new method for the production of batch emulsion for batching jute. I produced the emulsifier necessary for this and sold it to the jute industry.

I wrote a dissertation, using the scientific basic material of this procedure, and graduated at the Berlin Technical University on 13 May 1952.

Special Information

Before my departure to Roumania, which was repeatedly delayed since the Fall of 1952, a man visited me during the Winter of 1952/1953, who introduced himself as a member of a Western Intelligence Service. I do not remember his name, nevertheless, this is of no importance since I am certain that it was a false one. He visited me in the evening at my former Berlin home, Berlin-Dahlem, Puecklerstr 10. He knew that I would soon travel to Roumania for a longer period and suggested that I should make military and economic observations and furnish reports on them later on. He gave me a Zehlendorf (West Berlin) telephone number, under which he could be reached. I strictly rejected this proposal immediately, since I had the intuitive feeling that the man in question came from some Eastern Intelligence Service and had I consented to make observations for our side (the West) when I went to Roumania later on, he would have had me cornered.

In 1952 or 1953 respectively, a trip to the Eastern countries was a rare event, and it is absolutely certain that such persons were well checked by the Eastern Counterintelligence Services.

The experiences I had later on in Roumania (to enumerate them here would take forever) confirmed I was right and I am very glad that I previously turned down the offer, for otherwise, I would not have the opportunity to write this report.

Early in April 1955, I returned from Roumania.

In May 1955, it might also have been later, a man visited me who introduced himself as "KERSTEN". He knew that I had been to Roumania. At that time, I resided in Cologne and was employed with the Firm REISSNER.

He introduced himself as a member of the "Organisation GEBLEN". This man asked me to give him a detailed account of my experiences in Roumania.

I was rather certain that I would not travel to this country again, so I did not hesitate to tell what I had seen and what special experiences I had had there.

In 1956, I again moved to West Berlin and one day was visited by a Herr "WEBER" who told me that KERSTEN had referred the

case to him and that he was charged with the further evaluation. He visited me repeatedly and took along all the films I had made in Roumania, had copies made and he and I evaluated them. Logically, all our conversations were tape-recorded in order to save time. In the course of time, a close personal contact developed and "WEBER" became familiar with my private affairs.

In Berlin, I was chief chemist with the AUER Company. This company, a 100% subsidiary company of DEGUSSA, manufactured a catalyzer for gas masks, which changed low concentrated carbon monoxide into harmless carbon dioxide. This catalyzer is used especially for filters in mining and is generally known under the name "HOPCALITE".

In 1956 to 1958, large quantities of "HOPCALITE" were sold to Poland; buyer was the State Import Company "CZIECH" in Warsaw. In my capacity as chief chemist, I had considerably improved the production procedure as well as the catalyzer. On 1 Apr 1958, I left the AUER works since DEGUSSA sold the firm to the Mine Safety Appliances, Pittsburg. The executives were replaced by the new proprietors. AUER relieved me from the competition clause so that from then on, I was able to make (free) use of my (professional) knowledge.

In May, I wrote to the CZIECH Company in Warsaw and offered them to acquire the Know How. CZIECH then invited me to visit the Fair at Posen in order to lead pertinent discussions.

I immediately informed my contact man "WEBER" of my intended trip, who could be reached under a Wiesbaden telephone number. He was glad about the trip and gave me some good advice for my trip to Poland.

In Posen, I then talked with a number of persons, who assured me that they were interested in acquiring the production method and promised to contact me again.

After some months, I received a letter stating that a discussion would soon be held with a Herr TARNOWSKI. There were always considerable delays so that today, I am no longer able to state when, how often and where such discussions were held. In any case, "WEBER" was always informed, and in May 1959, TARNOWSKI invited me again to visit him at the Posen Fair.

WEBER again gave me detailed instructions, I was given special paper and after my safe return, I reported extensively on my trip.

In Posen, the Poles told me that I should render some information regarding my experiences in the chemical industry. They explained it was to be an advisory assignment, which was to describe the stage of technology in certain special fields.

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TARNOWSKI (Roman)
Born ca. 27, Posen
CIT. Poland
Operational alias
used by Michael
TARNOWSKI
with Kurt
BILMAIER

KURT BILMAIER

In agreement with WEBER, I gathered patents and patent applications from the "Deutsches Patentblatt" (German Patent Office Gazette) which were not subject to restrictions.

It was the intention of WEBER and his superiors (who I had met one evening in Frankfurt, prior to my second trip to Posen) to obtain certain Polish information from me that I could obtain by being in contact with Poles, and by privileges they granted me.

For instance, I was to accurately memorize vehicle license numbers, tactical insignia, serial numbers of engines and generators and numerous other things, which would then be evaluated by the organization.

The Poles procured a MINOX-camera for me, however, I merely used it for taking photos of my horses and my fiancée (my present wife), as well as taking photographs in Poland.

At a meeting held at about the end of 1959, the Poles requested me from now on no longer to provide them with general scientific written material, but to furnish them details on the production of pharmaceutical products of my firm SCHERING AG Berlin. I rejected this proposal and delayed all the meetings they suggested. It was easy for me to do so, since I was determined to change my employment and move to the Federal Republic.

WEBER knew all the details and we tried to find a possibility as to how to end this contact as "quietly" as possible.

One day, in the Summer of 1960, he brought me a letter, written by the GEHLEN Organization, in which I made known that I had taken on employment in West Germany, which contractually prohibited me from performing scientific activities as a sideline and therefore, I regretted that I had to cancel my cooperation.

From the Summer of 1960 on, I was almost permanently in West Germany, so that I could easily evade any meeting.

From March 1961 on, I at first lived with acquaintances in Cologne and on 1 Sep 1961, moved to my present home at Lohmar.

My wife mentioned that during the Winter of 1960/1961, a chauffeur of the Polish Military Mission once called on her at Dahlem and inquired about me. This was the last sign of life, the Poles gave.

Interrogation by the Security Group of the Federal Criminal Police Office at Godesberg

On 31 July 1963, two members of the Federal Criminal Police Office called on me at my Lohmar home; they told me that a man who had deserted from the Polish Intelligence Service, knew my name and that they were charged with checking his statements, since there were slight discrepancies between the deserter's statements and WEBER's reports. I voluntarily made available to the men all

the material which I had on Poland, and allowed them to look around the house as they pleased.

On the same day, I went to the office of this agency and had a detailed protocol made up.

On 3 Aug 1963, I traveled to South America for about one week. On 15 Aug 1963, I telephoned the officer at Bad Godesberg in order to give him further information on a few points which might not have been clarified, meantime, however, he was on night duty.

Because of an excess number of business discussions I had, I did not have another chance to contact him again before my departure on 26 Aug 1963.

I returned on 1 Oct 1963, and today came to this office where I talked with the section chief, since the competent officer is on leave again. He told me that they were not pressed for time, since on the whole, the matters had been clarified. I talked with Herr KUETTNER.

Special Information II

Until the outbreak of the (2nd) W.W., I lived in the Sudetenland, which, as is known, was annexed by the German Reich in 1938. At that time, I became a German citizen by law. Since I was eligible for military service anyhow, I volunteered for service with the Wehrmacht. On 31 Oct 1939, I was inducted into the Waffen-SS, Artillerie Ersatzregiment 1 (Artillery Reserve Regiment), Berlin-Lichterfelde. Because of my previous education, I was soon detached to a reserve officers' training course and trained as an artillery officer candidate. I participated in the campaign against Yugoslavia with the Armored Division "Das REICH" as a non-commissioned officer - officer candidate, and in July, with the same division, fought against the USSR. On 30 Nov 1941, I was promoted SFC. In the battle at Moscow in December 1941, my division sustained heavy losses and in January 1942 was withdrawn from the front and returned to Germany. My reconnaissance battery then only had a strength of 54 soldiers. I was slightly wounded, and when I was transported in a cattle-car to Wilna, I also got a very serious case of diphtheria. From this, I suffered a serious myocardium and cardiac valve defect, was physically unfit for active service, and therefore was granted leave in order to study, and later on was discharged.

Shortly before war's end, in January 1945 at Potsdam, I married my first wife, Brigitte BERTO, daughter of a Reserve Major and his wife Ursula nee DAMM, who was one quarter Jewish. According to the existing regulations, this was not allowed, however, at that time, the German Internal Intelligence Service had been considerably paralyzed, so that there was but little

danger of encountering difficulties with the authorities.

I did not wish to wait until the Soviet Army marched in to Potsdam Babelsberg UFA-Stadt, since it was known how Soviet soldiers treated young women. Therefore, I fled with my young wife across the German and Russian lines, across the Elbe to the Magdeburg district, which was then occupied by the Americans.

In order to facilitate my flight in both respects, namely to avoid that I would be inducted into the "Volkssturm" and also, to avoid having difficulties with the Soviets, the former Hungarian consul in Berlin (with whose son I had studied in Berlin) gave me and my wife an identification, which showed my name, however, indicated another birthplace, namely a Hungarian one. At that time, my dissertation was almost completed and when the identification was issued, there was a strong probability that I would still be able to obtain the doctor's degree meantime. For this reason, the identification showed Diplom-Chemiker (which I was at that time), and Dr.rer.nat.

At Braunschweig, I was self-employed, in order to avoid being questioned. In 1948, I contacted various universities in order to subsequently obtain my official doctor's degree. Due to the examination on 13 May 1952 in Berlin, my dissertation was approved and I graduated.

In 1951, I ordered a lawyer to take the necessary steps that my birthplace was correctly entered on all official papers.

The lawyer settled the matter so that from 1952 on, I was in possession of correct German citizenship documents, by making use of the amnesty laws of the German Federal government.

This enabled me to accept employment in industry. In conclusion, I wish to state that especially those years, where I could anticipate embarrassing questions at any time, were the most difficult in my life and that I suffered considerably, also as far as my professional career was concerned.

Today, I am very content that now, after the chaos of the last war, I have succeeded in holding an important position in industry.

Dr. Kurt Heinrich Konrad BILLMEIER

Encl.

Previous Convictions:

A fine of DM 700.- on the grounds of violating traffic regulations in May 1959 in Berlin